

Building Tolerance in a Small Town

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Story Narrative:

What does living in a small town teach you?

"I think in so many ways, living in a small town teaches you about tolerance. Many times we tend to believe that we need huge amounts of diversity, maybe in urban environment, a big city to be accepting of one another. In situations where you may not like someone but you see them every single day. You need to learn where those boundaries are in your personal relationships. And know that even if you don't get along with somebody, it doesn't mean that they're not there for you.

It's almost like having a giant family where it's easy to slip into anonymity in an urban environment. In a small town, there may not be as much cultural diversity. The town I grew up in definitely was not culturally diverse. And coming originally from a huge urban environment, that was very intimidating for me. And it's easy to assume in an urban environment, why someone may not like you, appreciate you or even not really care about your own behaviors, than in a small town you have to really address yourself and address other people too."

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